

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BERN 4670 ACTION SENT TO RUEHD/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO VIENNA ZEN/AMCONSUL ZURICH SECSTATE DATED 12/13/74;

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 4670

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION: CHEESE

REF: STATE 263110

1. TREASURY REP (SELF) AND FRANKFURT CUSTOMS REP (TABORSKY), ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR AND AGATTACHE, MET SWISS OFFICIALS FROM DIVISIONS OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE, AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, SWISS CHEESE UNION, DEC 12 FOR WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS RE COUNTERVAILING DUTY COMPLAINT INVOLVING SWISS EMMANTHALER AND GRUYERE CHEESES. SELF EXPLAINED US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW AND PROCEDURES. SWISS GAVE EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON CHEESE PRICING PRACTICES, AND GOVERNMENT POLICY AND ASSISTANCE TO DAIRY SECTOR.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING, USG REPS MET WITH AMBASSADOR JACOBI, SENIOR OFFICIAL CONCERNED US AFFAIRS IN DIVISION
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OF COMMERCE, AT LATTER'S REQUEST. JACOBI REITERATED

IMPORTANCE GOS ATTACHES TO CHEESE EXPORTS TO US AND POLITICAL ROLE OF DAIRY SECTOR. JACOBI THOUGHT SWISS PUBLIC WOULD BE "ASTONISHED" IF CVD ACTION TAKEN ON CHEESE IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND GIVEN VERY HIGH PRICES, DECLINING SHARE OF US MARKET, AND STABLE QUANTITY LEVEL OF SWISS EXPORTS AT SAME TIME THAT SALES OF SWISS-TYPE CHEESES FROM OTHER SOURCES HAD INCREASED. HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW AND ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO HAVE IT MODIFIED THRU TRADE REFORM ACT BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER CVD ACTION ON IMPORTANT SWISS EXPORT AT THIS TIME WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO USEFUL HANDLING OF SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING DUTY MEASURES IN MTNS. JACOBI SAID SWISS WANTED HANDLE VARIOUS UNRELATED US-SWISS ISSUES ON OWN MERITS BUT NOTED AS EVIDENCE OF TENDENCY MIX SUBJECTS THAT CHEESE PROBLEM WITH US HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN PRESS AND IN PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION EARLIER SAME DAY OF US-SWITZERLAND JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY. (BERN 4652). HE ALSO MADE BRIEF REFERENCE TO SPECIAL SWISS 300 TONS PER YEAR QUOTA FOR US HIGH QUALITY BEEF.

3. SELF TOLD JACOBI THAT INFO PROVIDED BY SWISS REPS VERY USEFUL AND WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHEN HE RETURNED WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, TREASURY CLEARLY HAD RESPONSIBILITY ADMINISTER LAW EXPEDITIOUSLY AND HAD TO LOOK AT EACH COMPLAINT ON OWN MERITS AND ON BASIS ALL AVAILABLE INFO. HE ADDED THAT TREASURY'S ULTIMATE DECISION WOULD BE BASED ON TECHNICAL AND LEGAL FACTORS.
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